

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 05863 251642Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OES-06 EB-08 /070 W
-----251935Z 110541 /50
R 251050Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2914

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5863

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO DACCA FROM CALCUTTA
APRIL 25, 1977 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE
CALCUTTA 0977

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
SUBJ: CONTINUING OUTCRY OVER FARAKKA UNDERSTANDING

REF: CALCUTTA 971

1. CRITICISM OF THE RECENT INDO-BANGLADESH UNDERSTANDING
ON FARAKKA HAS PASSED FROM THE EDITORIAL PAGES OF THE CAL-
CUTTA PRESS TO THE ARENA OF STATE/CENTRE POLITICS. ON
APRIL 22 CHIEF MINISTRY RAY ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT
EXPRESSING "DEEPEST CONCERN" OVER THE CENTRE'S REPORTED
DECISION ON THE SHARING OF GANGES WATER WITH BANGLADESH
"WHICH WOULD MEAN A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE SUPPLY OF
UPLAND WATER...INTO THE HOOGHLY FOR KEEPING THE CALCUTTA
PORT ALIVE..." RAY SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE TERMS OF THE
RECENT AGREEMENT AND REGRETTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST
BENGAL HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED ON IT BY THE CENTRE; THIS GOI
LAPSUS HE CONTRASTED WITH THE GOI'S CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 05863 251642Z

GOWB DURING THE INDO-BANGLADESH TALKS ON FARAKKA IN DECEM-
BER OF LAST YEAR. RAY DESCRIBED THE FARAKKA WATER ISSUE AS
"VITAL FOR THE CALCUTTA PORT AS WELL AS THE WHOLE OF
EASTERN INDIA."

2. ON APRIL 24 GOWB MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS BHOLA SEN
ISSUED A PUBLIC APPEAL TO THE GOI TO "REVIEW THE AGREEMENT

REACHED RECENTLY BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH OVER THE SHARING OF GANGA WATERS AT FARAKKA AND SUPPLY AT LEAST 35,000 CUSECS OF WATER TO THE CALCUTTA PORT DURING THE LEAN PERIOD." SEN REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ONLY ABOUT 20,500 CUSECS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE CALCUTTA PORT UNDER THE AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD BE "INADEQUATE" AND "DISASTROUS". SEN SAID CALCUTTA NEEDS A MINIMUM OF 35,000 CUSECS TO FLUSH SILTING FROM THE RIVER BED AND PREVENT A RISE IN SALINITY.

3. PAPERS REPORT CALCUTTA PORT CHAIRMAN P.C. MITRA, SPEAKING IN BOMBAY ON APRIL 22, SAID THAT CURTAILMENT OF THE MINIMUM FLOW OF 40,000 CUSECS OF WATER THROUGH THE FARAKKA BARRAGE INTO THE HOOGHLY DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS MIGHT RESULT IN "VERY HEAVY" FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE COUNTRY. MITRA REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE UNDERSTANDING RECENTLY REACHED BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH BUT SAID THAT THE FLOW OF WATER FROM FARAKKA HAD ALREADY BEEN REDUCED TO 30,000 CUSECS IN THE INTEREST OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: RAY'S AND SEN'S STATEMENTS ARE HARDLY SURPRISING. THE GOWB IS FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE AGAINST A CALL FROM THE GOI FOR ITS DISSOLUTION, AND THE INDO-BANGLADESH UNDERSTANDING ON FARAKKA OFFERS A CONVENIENT TARGET, A WAY OF PLAYING ON THE PERENNIAL BENGALI GRIPE OF NEGLECT AND DISCRIMINATION BY THE CENTER. BUT PUBLIC CRITICISM BY PORT CHAIRMAN MITRA IS SURPRISING, SINCE HE IS A GOI FUNCTIONARY, AND IT NO DOUBT REFLECTS THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH HE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 05863 251642Z

MANY OTHERS HERE VIEW ANY MOVE THAT WOULD REDUCE OFFTAKE VIA FARAKKA INTO THE HOOGHLY. SIGNED KORN
UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, FARAKKA BARRAGE, WATER RIGHTS, WATER DIVERSION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE05863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-0012
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770423/aaaaatit.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c033969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CALCUTTA 971
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2705539
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING OUTCRY OVER FARAKKA UNDERSTANDING
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c033969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009